to import cheaper variety of rice for internal consumption; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Government have contracted during July and August, 1992 for import of 1.40 lakh tonnes of Vietnamese Long Grain White Rice @ US $ 180 per M.T. on FOB basis from Vietnam.

Against repayment of interest dues from Vietnam on old commodity loans, further contracts for importing 75,000 MTs of the same variety of Vietnamese rice have been signed at the same rates during October and November, 1992.

Stock of Rice in the Country

2865. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has very low level of rice stock in the central pool; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The stocks of rice in the Central Pool was 5.1 million tonnes as on 1.10.1992 against 6.0 million tonnes as on 1st October of a year prescribed under the buffer stocking policy. The rice stocks as on 1.11.1992 were 6.0 million tonnes.

Storage of Foodgrains in the big cities of the Country

2866. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of foodgrains in the country has been adversely affected on account of price rise in the transportation charges;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made any effective arrangements to ensure storage facilities for foodgrains in various big cities of the country and particularly in big towns of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The availability of foodgrains in the country is dependent on the production and not on the increase in the transportation charges.

(b) Does not rise.

(c) and (d) The storage capacity owned by Food Corporation of India and that hired by it from Central Ware-housing Corporation, etc. is spread throughout the country. Efforts are made by Food Corporation of India on a continuous basis to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in their godowns located in a State to *meet its* requirements for Public Distribution System, etc. As regards Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the total storage capacity (owned and hired by FCI) available as on 30.9.1992, was 6.38 lakh tonnes and 23.82 lakh tonnes respectively.

Setting up Sugar Factories in A.P.

2867. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications seeking letters of intent to set up sugar factories are pending from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) since when these are pending;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay,

(d) what are the details of those applications which have been recommended by the State Government; and